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EDITORIAL
Tempering the Cameron craze
Professor Westmaas contests the UK leader's "success" **page 4**

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT
"The Last Five Years"
Luddy '20 and Letts '21 co-direct the hit Broadway musical and Netflix film **page 11**

SPORTS
Rookie Aces
A profile of the first-year members of the women's volleyball team **page 16**

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Publishing the Truth, From Good Motives and For Justifiable Ends

The 2018 midterms come to Hamilton: an interview with Anthony Brindisi

On Saturday, Sept. 15, State Assemblyman Anthony Brindisi, currently running as a Democrat in the race for New York's 22nd Congressional District in the 2018 midterm elections, visited campus for a question-and-answer event in the College Chapel. Prior to speaking, Assemblyman Brindisi sat down with The Spectator *for an interview that covered his views on civic engagement, the congressional race, and his vision for the region, among other topics.*

Editor's Note: The campaign of Claudia Tenney, the incumbent Republican representative running for re-election in the district, did not respond to multiple requests for interview.

Will Kaback '20, *Editor-in-Chief*: What part or parts of your campaign platform do you think should most appeal to college students, especially given the large out-of-state population at a school like Hamilton, where many students have switched their voter registration to this district because of this race?

Anthony Brindisi: Probably one of the things that all voters, including young voters, should be concerned about, and one of the main points of our campaign, is that we're not getting any corporate PAC [Political Action Committee] money. I made a decision that I wanted to have individuals and grassroots supporters step up and fund this campaign, and we have been very successful in attracting a lot of small-dollar contributions. There was one article that cited our campaign in the top 20 of congressional campaigns in the entire country for small dollar contributions. That's important to me because, in my opinion, in every issue in this country, money in politics plays such a major role in the decision-making process in Washington, and it really shouldn't. Whether you're concerned about student loan debt, or the environment, or gun violence, or healthcare, there are very powerful interest groups in Washington that are driving the conversation and in many cases drowning out the voices of average citizens throughout the country. This is the basis of our whole campaign. When I go to Washington, I'm not going to be worried about who I owe favors to.

Natalie Halpin '21, *Staff Writer*: What do you think about college students changing their registration to this district ahead of the upcoming election, given that they will likely only be residents here for 4 years?

AB: I think it's a great idea, precisely because they are residents here for 4 years. This election and who their representative is during those 4 years should be very important to college students. You may come from different areas of the country, but central New York is now your home. The people of central New York, I'm sure, want you to not only get a great education while you're here, but also want you to be involved in the community, just as any other resident would be. We're excited that so many college students throughout the 22nd District have changed their registration to this area. Whether it is a local issue or a national issue, it impacts all of us, and we should make sure that we're voting in this year's election.

WK: Americans tend to see civic engagement as an ideal of our democracy. Here at Hamilton, we have a group called HamVotes that has made it a goal to register as many students as possible regardless of party affiliation. What effect do you think a group like this has on improving civic engagement, especially given that many students will be voting in their first or second election ever?

AB: I think it's great that we've seen groups like [HamVotes] pop up all over the congressional district, particularly on college campuses, that have made it their mission to register people to vote. No matter what party they register in, I think it's one of our most important duties as Americans to show up to the polls whenever there's an election. I always try to lead by example. I have two young children, and since they were babies, they have come to the polls with [my wife and me] no matter if it's a school board election or a local city election or something at the state or federal level. People should realize that decisions are made by elected officials every day that affect people's lives and we should be showing up to the polls not just for presidential elections, when there's a lot of attention being paid to a [presidential race], but also when there's local elections that may impact the areas that we live in.

NH: Your congressional race in particular has been the subject of a lot of conversation on Hamilton's campus, and many students are also interning with your campaign. What do you think are the benefits of having college students engaged and active in races like this one?

AB: It's huge. I've been so excited to have so many students from Hamilton help out on the campaign. The one thing that I think is really going to get us over the edge in November are the young people that are not just working for the campaign, but also those folks who are volunteering or interning with us. What these elections really come down to is voter contact and how many times you can knock on a door or make a phone call or communicate with a voter in some other manner. The interns here at Hamilton have been a huge help getting out our message throughout the congressional district. As of last week, we've knocked on 50,000 doors in the entire district, and many of those doors were knocked on by Hamilton College students. I hope it has been a rewarding experience for them to be involved in one of the most competitive congressional races in the whole country, and I want them to know that it's been rewarding for me seeing them out there helping on the campaign.

Benjamin Katz '20, *News Editor*: For many outside observers, the New York State Legislature seems very dysfunctional. What has been your experience in the State Assembly and how do you think it will affect how you work across the aisle with your colleagues should you be elected to Congress?

AB: There's a lot of news that gets reported about the dysfunction in Albany, but there's also a lot of good people there who are really there to do the right thing. One of the things that I've been the most proud of during my time in Albany is that I've been able to work very well with both sides of the aisle. One of my closest colleagues is a Republican state senator, and we have been able to put aside partisan differences, and actually focus on issues that matter to the people and this region. I'm also someone who's been independently-minded in my approach. I've had disagreements with the governor of New York [Andrew Cuomo], who's a Democrat, on issues that I think he may have been pushing that could have been harmful to the people I represent. I've also been a part of a group of younger members of the legislature that led the charge to oust our former Speaker of the Assembly, Sheldon Silver, when he was accused of misusing his office. So, there's a lot of good things that are happening in New York, but there's a long way to go to really turn around the state, especially issues at the federal level that are negatively impacting the state right now.

*See **Interview**, page 2*

PHOTO COURTESY OF ALEX SCHEUER '18

Anthony Brindisi, a Democrat running for Congress in New York's 22nd Congressional District, speaks in the College Chapel on Sept. 15

An interview with NY-22 congressional candidate Anthony Brindisi

*From **Interview**, page 1*

BK: You and Congresswoman Tenney grew up geographically proximate to each other (childhood homes less than a mile away), you both attended colleges and universities in the region for your undergraduate education, and are both lawyers, yet you have divergent views of this country and the role of government. What do you think has contributed to these differing worldviews?

AB: It's hard to pinpoint what has shaped her views, but I can say that my views have very much been shaped by my upbringing. I lost my mother at a very young age, so I had three sisters who really stepped into the role of being a mother to me. They were very strong women who taught me the importance of integrity and hard work and standing up for what you believe in, and the reason that I got involved with politics is because I've seen over the course of my childhood how my family members have gone out of their way to try and help other people. That is the most rewarding part of being in elected office to me — when you can actually go out and help someone, whether it's through a piece of legislation or when they call your office with a problem they're having, and you work on that problem and bring some solution to whatever the issue is, just making a difference in someone's life.

WK: Claudia Tenney has a history of making remarks that could be considered insensitive or offensive. One that comes to mind was after the shooting in Parkland, FL last year, when she said that "so many" mass murderers "end up being Democrats", a statement which you spoke out against on Twitter. How do you strike a balance between the personal values you mentioned and appealing to a more conservative voter base in a tight election when you're running against an opponent who makes statements like this?

AB: My approach has always been based around the knowledge that this area has traditionally been represented in Congress by people on both sides of the aisle who have been more moderate in their views and have also worked very well with both sides — Democrat and Republican. I think we have lost that in our current representative, who seems to want to appeal to the extreme side of things. I don't want our congressional district to be known for their representative who says all kinds of hurtful remarks, like the statements that were made after the Parkland shooting, which was a horrible event in our nation's history and an event that should never be politicized. When late night talk show hosts are mentioning your member of Congress because of controversial comments that she has made, that's not a good reflection of the region. We need to change course and bring civility back into our politics. I think she is contributing to a negative discourse that is plaguing the whole country right now.

NH: Have you noticed differences in your reception between the towns in the district you have visited?

AB: There's so many similarities, but also differences, throughout the congressional district. The one commonality I've seen is that people want a representative who is going to show up and listen to them. They feel like they don't have that right now because the current representative does not hold town hall meetings, she outright offends groups of people, and is generally unresponsive to the concerns of her constituents. In many cases, she has voted directly against their interests. People have responded to this campaign in urban areas, suburban areas, and the more rural communities in a more positive way, because they see me as someone who is always going to put their interests ahead of special interests and who is going to make a decision not based on party, but what's best for the people that I represent, and that's a big change from what they have right now.

BK: You have two young children, a demanding job, and your wife also has a demanding job as a college professor at Mohawk Valley. As students, we are often told to think about striking a healthy work-life balance. In light of your responsibilities, how do you balance it all?

AB: We try to involve the family in as much as we can in the campaign and my work in office. The children frequently travel with me to events, and my wife, when she has time, is also travelling with me. We always look for events to attend that are more family-friendly so they can all come along. The children have really taken an interest in this campaign, to the point where they actually like coming to some of the events that I attend. When we do town hall meetings, they come. One of the great things about Upstate New York is that we have such a beautiful landscape and seasonal festivals, and now in the fall, [my children are] excited about the various apple and pumpkin festivals that are going to be happening. And a little bribery with ice cream always goes a long way.

Elaine Weiss K'72 gives Constitution Day lecture on women's suffrage movement

by Betsy Ramirez '19
Contributing Writer

On Monday, Sept. 17, in honor of Constitution Day, award-winning journalist Elaine Weiss K'72 gave a lecture in the College Chapel on her book *The Woman's Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote*, which was recently optioned by filmmaker Steven Spielberg for a major television production, with Hillary Clinton as an executive producer. It is the story of how the 19th Amendment came to be — in other words, the fight for the vote for women.

"Women were not forgotten but purposely left out," said Weiss. "Given no voice […] denied the most fundamental right of a democracy — the vote." *The Woman's Hour* is a story detailing the past limitations of the Constitution, but also a recognition of the Constitution as a living document with the ability to be changed, improved, and amended.

Weiss' book recounts the struggle to make such a change in the Constitution possible, saying the 19th Amendment corrected what the Founding Fathers willingly left out. "The 19th Amendment wasn't just a legal change, not just a constitutional change," said Weiss. "It didn't just double the national electorate, it didn't just make women full citizens — it marked a societal change and a cultural shift."

This shift did not come easily — it required more than 72 years of fighting and marshalling of collective strength to be achieved. From the Seneca Falls Convention to six-weeks of activism and advocacy in Tennessee — the last state needed to ratify the 19th Amendment — this movement was made possible by the work of women who persisted despite obstacles and backlash from their fellow citizens.

Weiss mentions that an essential part of the movement was women actively challenging faulty perceptions of their intelligence, strength, purpose, and determination. Furthermore, suffragists like Susan B. Anthony and Virginia Minor used civil disobedience and defiance to advance the goals of the movement, regardless of the consequences. Weiss described how three generations of suffragists faced opposition from politicians, clergymen, corporations, and other women, who imposed obstacles on the activists, including social ridicule, physical violence, and imprisonment. Weiss also spoke to the other methods employed by the suffragists such as building advocacy campaigns and lobbying. She emphasized that protesting and marching was only effective due to the suffragists following through on their demands for political action.

Weiss praised the the suffragists but did not shy away from speaking about the racial issues that arose between the abolition and suffrage movements — two groups that had initially supported each other. Their respective leaders, however, were told that the nation could not handle two reforms of such magnitude, causing what Weiss calls a "heartbreaking split." Feeling that the abolitionists had deserted them and were setting the suffragists back, many suffragists turned against the abolitionists. Elizabeth Stanton and Susan B. Anthony refused to support the 14th and 15th Amendments because women were not included, and in anger expressed violent and racist sentiments against black and immigrant men.

Weiss's passionate lecture covered political power, political will, and an account of how change is made in a democracy. Elizabeth Vasquez '19, who had the chance to meet and talk with Weiss said, "Weiss is extremely passionate, she is very excited that this story is reaching so many people. She seems hopeful that it can make a great impact in our future."

Weiss is hoping that her book can both offer a historical account of a pivotal amendment to the Constitution and also demonstrate how change is possible through the mobilization of determined citizens willing to fight and exercise their political power. She concluded with a word of reminder and encouragement to the women in the audience, saying, "Hamilton women, when you vote in the November elections, it will be proof the suffragists won."

PHOTO COURTESY OF NANCY L. FORD

Award-winning journalist Elaine Weiss K'72 spoke on Monday about her book *The Woman's Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote*

Counseling Center to provide teletherapy services via BetterMynds

by Caroline Nash '22
Contributing Writer

Colleges nationwide are taking action to address mental health issues on campus. At Hamilton, the College has recently invested in free counseling services and a new Health and Counseling Center, and now, it has added an online counseling option called BetterMynds.

BetterMynds is a teletherapy service founded in 2014 that seeks to make counseling services more accessible to college students by making it possible for them to get help on their own time and in the privacy of their own rooms. Teletherapy is a form of therapy service that is provided online through a live video connection. With BetterMynds, students can find therapists and make appointments to talk to them on a secure video chat. The service went live on campus this week.

While the Counseling Center offers a variety of counseling options, including in-person sessions with staff therapists, individual and group peer counseling, and referrals to local private therapists, BetterMynds, which is provided by the Dean of Students office, extends the resources available to students to take ownership of their mental health. Because BetterMynds is a portal rather than an on-campus counseling option, however, there are some fees associated with sessions, just as there would be for any private therapist. In some cases, these fees may be covered by insurance, but students should not mistake this for a free service.

The 2018-19 school year will be a trial period for BetterMynds at Hamilton. "We decided to contract with BetterMynds for a pilot year because we want to make sure that Hamilton students have the widest array of choices when it comes to their mental health needs," said Dr. David Walden, Director of the Counseling Center. The Dean of Students office brought BetterMynds to campus and will work closely with the Counseling Center and Student Assembly to gather feedback.

Gavin Meade '20, Student Assembly's Mental Health Liaison, meets with Dr. Walden bi-weekly to discuss ideas for programming on campus. Meade says he welcomes feedback from students on their experience with BetterMynds. "Any student who has concerns about this specific bit of programming or mental health concerns in general should reach out to me," he said. "In my capacity as Mental Health Liaison to Student Assembly and leader of the Mental Health Taskforce, I feel well-equipped to handle any issues that may arise."

Dr. Walden, along with Meade and the Dean of Students office, is still trying to figure out how they will effectively evaluate the usefulness of BetterMynds, since the service is Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)-compliant, meaning it has broad protections of privacy for the students who use it. "On a very basic level, we will be assessing how many students use the service during the pilot year to assess long-term viability," said Walden.

Walden says he thinks Hamilton is taking necessary action to make sure students get the help they need in a comfortable, personalized way. "It's really about providing choices for everyone's unique situation as best we can given our resources," he said. "I'd recommend that students consider what their needs are and choose the resources that best fit their situation."

Campus Safety Incident Report

In an effort to increase Campus Safety's transparency, *The Spectator* publishes a selection of the previous week's incidents each Thursday. Both Campus Safety and *The Spectator* use discretion regarding what is published.

Wednesday, September 12

2:52 A.M. Suspicious Activity – Field House Lot
5:58 P.M. Detail – North Campus
10:42 P.M. Complaint – Root Residence Hall

Thursday, September 13

8:41 A.M. Complaint – Sadove Student Center
7:27 P.M. Detail – North Campus
11:10 P.M. Maintenance Call – Commons Dining Hall

Friday, September 14

12:46 A.M. Complaint – Root Hall
2:40 A.M. Fire Alarm – Commons Dining Hall
7:44 A.M. Trouble Alarm – Babbitt Hall
1:04 P.M. Trouble Alarm – Griffin Rd. Apartments
1:05 P.M. Trouble Alarm – Babbitt Hall
4:24 P.M. Medical Emergency – Dunham Hall
5:07 P.M. Trouble Alarm – Little Pub
9:00 P.M. Trouble Alarm – Bundy West
10:00 P.M. Found Property – Martin's Way
11:38 P.M. Trouble Alarm – Babbitt Hall
11:51 P.M. Medical Emergency – South Hall

Saturday, September 15

1:54 A.M. Medical Emergency – Eells House
2:53 A.M. Medical Emergency – Milbank Hall
7:56 A.M. Medical Emergency – South Hall
9:00 A.M. Trouble Alarm – ABC House
9:26 A.M. Trouble Alarm – Siuda House
10:14 A.M. Trouble Alarm – Kirkland Hall
10:29 A.M. Medical Emergency – Dunham Hall
1:08 P.M. Motor Vehicle Accident – Dunham Hall
1:44 P.M. Trouble Alarm – Bundy East
2:13 P.M. Trouble Alarm – Milbank Hall
3:36 P.M. Trouble Alarm – Milbank Hall
3:36 P.M. Trouble Alarm – Scott Field House
3:42 P.M. Trouble Alarm – Bristol Campus Center
3:46 P.M. Motor Vehicle Accident – Dunham Lot
8:22 P.M. Medical Emergency – McIntosh Hall
10:08 P.M. Complaint – Ferguson House
11:42 P.M. Noise Complaint – South Campus

Sunday, September 16

12:00 A.M. Medical Emergency – Root Glen
1:04 A.M. Suspicious Activity – Root Glen
1:37 A.M. Medical Emergency – Dunham Hall
4:15 P.M. Trouble Alarm – Bundy East
4:59 P.M. Security Alarm – Spencer House
7:39 P.M. Medical Emergency – Taylor Science Center

Monday, September 17

12:44 A.M. Noise Complaint – South Hall
1:24 A.M. Tow Vehicle – On Campus
4:28 P.M. Concern for Welfare – Dunham Hall
6:53 P.M. Concern for Welfare – Dunham Hall
9:32 P.M. Trouble Alarm – Wellin Museum of Art
9:35 P.M. Trouble Alarm – South Hall
10:20 P.M. Complaint – Ferguson House

Letter to the Editor:
Contesting the David Cameron narrative of success

Dear *Spectator* Editorial Board,

The announcement by the college that former British Prime Minister David Cameron has been chosen as the next Sacerdote "Great Names" speaker on campus was carried in full by the *Spectator* newspaper. In the lengthy release on Cameron, the first section provides a general background to Cameron's roles as businessman, MP, senior government official, and eventually Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. So far so good.

Then the release proceeds to gush that Cameron's leadership transformed the UK economy and this "created the stability Cameron needed to cut taxes, introduce a national living wage, transform education, reform welfare, protect the National Health Service, and increase pensions." The statement goes on to detail some of Cameron's foreign policy "challenges" and successes.

It is not unanticipated that in selling a "Great Names" speaker, the College would offer a glowing account of the individual in question. What however requires contestation is the uncritical, context-free descriptions of Cameron's "successes". This is typical of Western conceit over development policies, where uncritical descriptions are replayed over and over like mantras whose repetition converts them to truths. Yet even a surface examination of some of these "successes" would reveal that they have been contested in the UK and have affected millions in less than the dazzling terms of the College's pronouncements on the former PM. No doubt some of his accomplishments may have been positive to sections of British society but the "normalization" of neoliberal actions like "cutting taxes" and austerity measures requires a rebuttal.

Firstly, it should be noted for instance, that austerity measures under Cameron's reign had the effect of targeting, for the worse, some of the most vulnerable poor people, including people with disabilities. While the Hamilton report noted that Cameron got a number of families off welfare, the truth is more nuanced than the Hamilton accolade suggests. In fact, it was also true that the number of people reliant on foodbanks grew during this time. One study in 2015 estimated a 19 percent rise in foodbanks and related this directly to austerity measures of the British government.

Secondly, Cameron has also been a major player in the toxic politics over immigration in the UK and EU. Under his stewardship, we already saw some of the problematic language and actions of his successor. Indeed there was a demonization of immigrants and Theresa May, then Home Secretary under Cameron, even arranged a billboard campaign telling illegal immigrants to "go home or face arrest" in known multiethnic areas of the UK. May eventually backed down from this indecent campaign and said it would not be repeated. Many Caribbean immigrants who went to the UK in the 1950s and 1960s in what was called the "Windrush" generation felt the effects of this policy, with some being wrongly deported in what became the "Windrush scandal". Mr Cameron was also associated with problematic language about refugees, deeming them "swarms" at one point in his administration, although at the time he used this "insect metaphor" the UK was taking in far, far below the number of refugees taken in by countries like Turkey, Lebanon, and Jordan.

Thirdly, Cameron himself, in contradiction of his putative support for the anti-Brexit stand, at one point toyed with anti-EU feeling to appease his parliamentary back benchers. The rest is history. Cameron's referendum option backfired and Brexit was the reality.

The Hamilton report on this Great Speaker exposes even as it is designed to hide the underbelly of Western 'normalization' of its economic goals and political policy frameworks as logical and beyond challenge.

The lesson here is that the Western canon on international affairs is blithely taken as the "truth" even if it involves social, economic, political or military marauding into foreign territories — whether the intervention is an IMF visitation into a developing country or a military incursion into anywhere but another Western nation. At best, a kind of pro forma "regret" might follow ten years or more after an act of national indiscretion or of international crime (check the decision to invade Iraq), but the ability of Western societies' to conduct national and international activities with the halo of justification continues.

All this was implicit in the starry praise of Cameron in the Hamilton announcement. While to be fair, he is by no means as bad as some of his predecessors as prime ministers (one can think of Margaret Thatcher and Thatcherism for example), placing his actions in a more realistic frame than accorded in the announcement was the main purpose of my response.

All for, and in support of the record.

Nigel Westmaas
Africana Studies

The Spectator is a publication of the Hamilton College Media Board. A volunteer staff of students handles all aspects of the weekly publication. The purpose of the newspaper is to provide the Hamilton Community with an honest, fair, timely, and high-quality publication.

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Letters to the Editor Policy

The Spectator's Letter to the Editor section is designed to be a forum for the entire Hamilton community to discuss and debate campus, local, national, and global issues. Pieces published in the section express the opinion of the individual writers and are not necessarily the opinions of *The Spectator*, its editors or the Media Board.

Letters to the Editor are welcome from all students, alumni/ae, faculty, friends of the college, and Hamilton community members.

The Spectator has the following policies for submission:

1. Submissions are due by 10:00 p.m. on the Monday before publication. The editors reserve the right to refuse any late submissions.
2. Letters should be no longer than 500 words. The editors reserve the right to cut off letters at 500 words.
3. Letters submitted anonymously will not be printed.
4. *The Spectator* reserves the right not to publish any letter it deems inappropriate for publication.
5. If a piece is determined to be libelous, an unwarranted invasion of privacy, or an unnecessary and/or unwarranted ad hominem or personal attack, it will not be published.

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A troubled past: what the United States government should keep in mind when dealing with Venezuela

by Joy Zhichun Zhang '22
Contributing Writer

Empty shelves in the supermarket, a month-long shortage of insulin in the hospitals, expensive infant formula that costs twice the amount of a family's monthly income — these are only some of the many problems local Venezuelans have to deal with on a daily basis. Since 2015, Venezuela's GDP has been declining at a rate of 15 percent per year. Limited food production has driven prices far beyond the financial capability of average citizens, leaving millions relying on state-subsidized food stamps. In addition, the news media and opinions online media are heavily censored due to a newly-enacted law by the government that makes any public expression that incites "hate and intolerance" illegal, according to *Bloomberg*.

After taking office in 2013, the current president of Venezuela, Nicolás Maduro, immediately implemented a series of policies to consolidate his newly-assumed power. One such policy was his intervention in the National Constituent Assembly. Tightened domestic policies stiffened the locals' meager hope of gaining freedom from strict authoritarian rule. In 2018, national favorability of Maduro has dropped to around 20 percent, with the vast majority of the population calling for a change.

The U.S. has always been keen on spreading democracy around the world. Faced with the current humanitarian crisis in Venezuela, the U.S. government, along with many Americans, see it as its moral duty to save the people in Venezuela from the peril of dictatorship. On Saturday, Sept. 8, *The New York Times* published an article reporting a meeting between the Trump administration and several Venezuelan officers. The news was quickly followed by a statement from the Venezuelan government, denouncing the U.S. motive to put forth a coup against the current Venezuelan government led by Maduro. It also spurred a nationwide discussion on what the U.S. should do regarding the crisis in Venezuela, keeping in mind the best interest of the Venezuelan people but also citizens of the U.S.

More sanctions will only exacerbate the problem. From 2015 to 2018, the U.S. government imposed four sanctions on Venezuela, including the prohibition of selling its national bond to America, a response to its massive economic inflation and unstable economy. It turns out, however, that the U.S. was not Venezuela's only potential partner. Maduro quickly turned to his other allies for help. For example, over the past decade, China has channeled over $50 billion into Venezuela through "oil-for-loan" agreements, temporarily ameliorating Venezuela's economic crisis and helping China fuel its rapidly-growing economy. As the U.S. tries to use sanctions to catalyze reform in Venezuela, it should also recognize that it is no longer the only country that "saves" everyone. Anti-U.S. sentiment continues to grow in South America with the establishment of the socialist national alliance, ALBA (Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America). By increasing sanctions on Venezuela, the U.S. is simply pushing the country further away from building a constructive relationship and closer into the bosoms of the countries with ideals that are alien to those of the U.S.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIPEDIA

What's more, Venezuela's broken economy not only puts its government on the brink of collapse, but also harms the millions of citizens in the country who suffer from shortages of food and other necessities. The soaring prices of commodities and increasingly-scarce resources widen the gap between the rich and the poor. While the people in the upper class can still afford most consumables and send their children abroad to pursue a better life, the vast majority of people in the middle and lower class are stuck in the country with no power to effect change. Economic sanctions would deteriorate the situation by stripping away more opportunities that could help the country restore its economy in the future. Even if the current regime was successfully overthrown, a shattered economy and a country imbued with misery is not going to contribute to the long-term stable development of the new government.

Given that economic sanctions are not the best option, what about something more direct, such as organizing a coup? This sounds like a good idea at first glance — quick, direct, and thorough. And since the U.S. ostensibly has the most powerful military in the world, an armed intervention seems easy to pull off. But, we also have to constantly bear in mind that any action taken by the U.S. government should also ensure the protection of the interests of the Venezuelan people. After all, Venezuela should be an independent country. If the U.S. managed to overthrow the current regime and implement another one immediately afterwards, the leader of the new regime is likely to side with the U.S. and be willing to help the U.S. maximize its interests in the region. The political vacuum after the coup creates risk of more domestic conflicts and turmoils. Who is going to monitor a fair and transparent re-election of government? How is the country going to recover after such drastic political reorganization? Unless these questions are properly answered ahead of time, a coup led or supported by the U.S. remains an unwise decision.

Additionally, the fact that President Maduro has tightened Venezuela's domestic policies suggests insecurity. Maduro rose to power through a "special election" without the support of the public but rather on the coattails of the legacy of the previous strong-rule president, Hugo Chavez. Maduro knew from the beginning of his rule that in order to secure his position as head of the country, he needed to be aware of all potential enemies, both domestically and overseas. The recent meeting between the Trump administration and the Venezuelan officers has without a doubt touched the nerves of the Maduro regime, intensifying the anti-U.S. sentiment in the government and precipitating the creation of stricter censorship of freedom of speech in the country. It is my contention that the possibility of a U.S. coup will encourage the Venezuelan government to increase its military spending, a bad proposition for all involved.

With the complicated situation in Venezuela, the U.S. government should rethink their current and past policies in dealing with its government. The key is to find a balance between pressure and leeway. While economic sanctions can be an effective leverage for change, the U.S. should make sure that it leaves spaces for Venezuela to adjust and concede without harming its people. While starting a coup sounds efficient, we should also consider difficulties that would arise with the following aftermath. After all, any foreign political intervention should be conducted with the principle of prioritizing the interest of the people of the country involved. No one should be the "meat on the plate" in a political game between those who wield the most power on the geo-political stage.

Thumbs Up	Thumbs Down	Who Cares?
Anthony Scaramucci follwed me on Twitter! I saw David Wippman yesterday as I walked out of class. We didn't talk and I didn't meet his eye. Jokes about him still aren't that funny. The St. Lawrence String Quartet was immaculate. I loved it.	Lots to complain about. Anthon Scaramucci has not replied to any of my DMs. I started a new NSAID for my bilateral neuromas. I'm not allowed to drink! How am I supposed to have fun now? Play tag? I had to come up with a Twister-esque board game. It sucks though. Oh well.	Anthony Scaramucci probably employs a PR crew to do his Twitter for him. I mean, he's following 400k people. Of course he's not following me for my content. Lets be real though, I love this guy. We haven't had a good theme party yet. Someone throw a risuqe shindig.

by Zach Deming '20

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in this column are purely of a satirical nature, and are not representative of the views of *The Spectator* editorial board.

A cyclical process of degradation — at Hamilton, the ends don't justify the means when it comes to sororities

by Dorothy Poucher '21
Contributing Writer

Pledging a sorority on Hamilton College's campus becomes a spectacle of the worst utilization of power. Within these groups, there is an established and acknowledged hierarchy, which in itself is dangerous already. As we sit back and watch further, we are able to see the effects of this level of social capital, manipulation, and power on the campus and specifically on those going through the process of pledging. It is my understanding that between the hours of 7 PM and 2:30 AM, girls that are pledging sororities can be seen running errands (and I do mean running) for their older members. Furthermore, they are rumored to be made to drive downtown and back repeatedly as some sort of Uber service for their inebriated sisters-to-be.

Some must be accompanied by another member of their pledge class at all times, and others have even had to endure yelling and verbal abuse. They must constantly put their love for their future sisters above everything else, even if "everything else" simply consists of basic needs like sleep, time for schoolwork, and self respect. It is rare during this period to see any new members giving back to the campus or the community; instead they are often being bossed around and spend their time following the whims of their superiors.

The control and monopoly on social capital held by sororities is interesting at Hamilton specifically, because of its deviance from the norm. The earliest sorority at Hamilton, Kappa Delta Omega, was founded on campus in 1982. This is four years after Hamilton became co-ed in 1978. Out of seven sororities on campus, only Sigma Lambda Upsilon is nationally recognized. Six out of seven do not offer the appeal of an extensive alumni network and simultaneously do not have the same accountability to explicit rules set out by their national sorority. This results in a decrease in benefits gained from being a part of these groups, and also allows for more secrecy and line-blurring.

I often hear many people speak about sororities on campus using phrases like, "They are the only ones who think that they are important." If this statement is true for a decent population of Hamilton's campus who are not involved in Greek life, then how is this social capital gained and why do people continue to return despite the level of time and suffering required? These groups hold many parties on campus, thus having a sizeable impact on the social scene of going out. They host nights at the Breakaway Lounge and have control over some of the houses downtown. They are able to remain relevant because of the limited spaces available and the priority given to those who are a part of the group.

One night, as I attended Breakaway, I was denied entrance along with two of my friends because of their involvement in the rushing process of another sorority. This became clear as we were "not on the list" and then were only allowed to go inside after a friend of both the hosting sorority and my two friends convinced the hosts to do so. It is this control that defines these groups and makes them desirable. Their control and ability for exclusivity gives them power, but most important is how we as a campus allow this power to be utilized.

Coming to a new place, fear of isolation and desire to be a part of something are two extremely valid feelings that exist for most everyone. There is a comfort in having "your people" and an excitement in having events and parties to consistently attend. But just because these desires and perks exist, does not mean that they should be exploited. To be admitted to these groups, those in charge are able to decide who is good enough or not good enough based on the subjective notion of who fits in best with their already established group. A person's way of dressing and composing themselves, and oftentimes a person's appearance dictate their worth to a sorority.

To take another person's self esteem or sense of self into your hands, and to let them know that it is not enough by passive aggressive acts, such as removing them from a group text, crosses a line. To tell some rushes they are good enough, which is evident through them being allowed to remain, and then to put them through six weeks of forced activities and emotional distress for the benefit of the their superiors crosses it even further. The fact that the experience of rushing and pledging is so painful and stressful gives the experience an appearance of importance and convinces those on the outside that must be worth it.

Through the entire process, the most intriguing part, to me, is the constant use of words like "love" and "care" for justification. The idea that these people love and care for you, and that is why they put you through hell, is not only manipulative, but is also extremely unhealthy. It only guarantees relationships built upon painful bonding, distrust, ridicule, and hierarchy. And it simultaneously guarantees its own cyclic nature, which can be seen in the continuing use of these traditions year after year. Those who went through this torture will then be the ones who inflict the same onto others when they become upperclassmen.

The underclassmen become the propagandists and inflictors of this abuse within their sorority in later years, which guarantees buy-in. Just as Hamilton tour guides' views are often informed by constantly promoting the positivity of their own experience, those within the sorority reinforce their reasons for membership by taking up leadership positions and being a part of the initiation process. This also guarantees the secrecy that is required for these groups to remain intact. No one wants to expose a group they are seen part of and is part of their identity, and the manipulative communication by the leaders convinces these girls that they mean no harm and simply want what is best for them.

The comparison between sororities and sports teams on campus is often used as a justification for the time and experiences that they require. Though being accepted into a sports team or even some type of publication on campus is subjective in many ways, the basis for acceptance is quite different. In these previously mentioned activities, acceptance is based on the evaluation of the skill required; whether it be a sport or the ability to write a well-constructed article. Acceptance into a sorority, both at Hamilton and in general, is ostensibly based on an individual's status, quality of self, sociability, appearance, and, quite frankly, the "worth" of an individual. This is why being dropped can be so painful. One's social capital being the basis for acceptance as well as the power dynamic already in place, makes the motivations for acceptance and the relationships between those that choose and those are chosen extremely distorted and often nontransparent.

Another distinction between Hamilton's sororities and sports teams is the level of accountability. NCAA rules protect against hazing; recently, the Colgate men's rowing team was suspended for the fall season and from their first spring competition for hazing, and were required to attend mandatory education seminars about hazing and high-risk drinking for violating hazing policy in Sept. 2017. Athletic teams are accountable to the NCAA, like chartered sororities which are accountable to their national sorority and face similar consequences if they violate the rules. This, of course, does not guarantee perfection. However, the requirement to check in with this larger organization requires regular work to stay in accordance with rules and also establishes a more specific set of guidelines to follow and consequences to face than those that each college or university sets out.

The code of confidentiality among sororities around their conduct allows these groups to remain in control of the flow of information given to the College. Their mode of relationship-building ensures a level of secrecy among members, leaving many uncomfortable and immoral incidents to go unreported. This code of secrecy also benefits the College because investigations are allowed to be conducted internally and the reputation of the College is able to remain intact. We are allowing the sharing of the truth to be done by those who wish to hide it, and the checking of this truth by the institution that is only hurt by the real truth being exposed.

It requires a party who is truly impartial and who does not have a vested interest in the consequences to ensure that the truth is told. The way that we as a campus and the administration as a whole responds to the actions of these groups and any allegations of misconduct that might arise will show what we value more: truth or convenience. Only time will tell whether we really know ourselves or not.

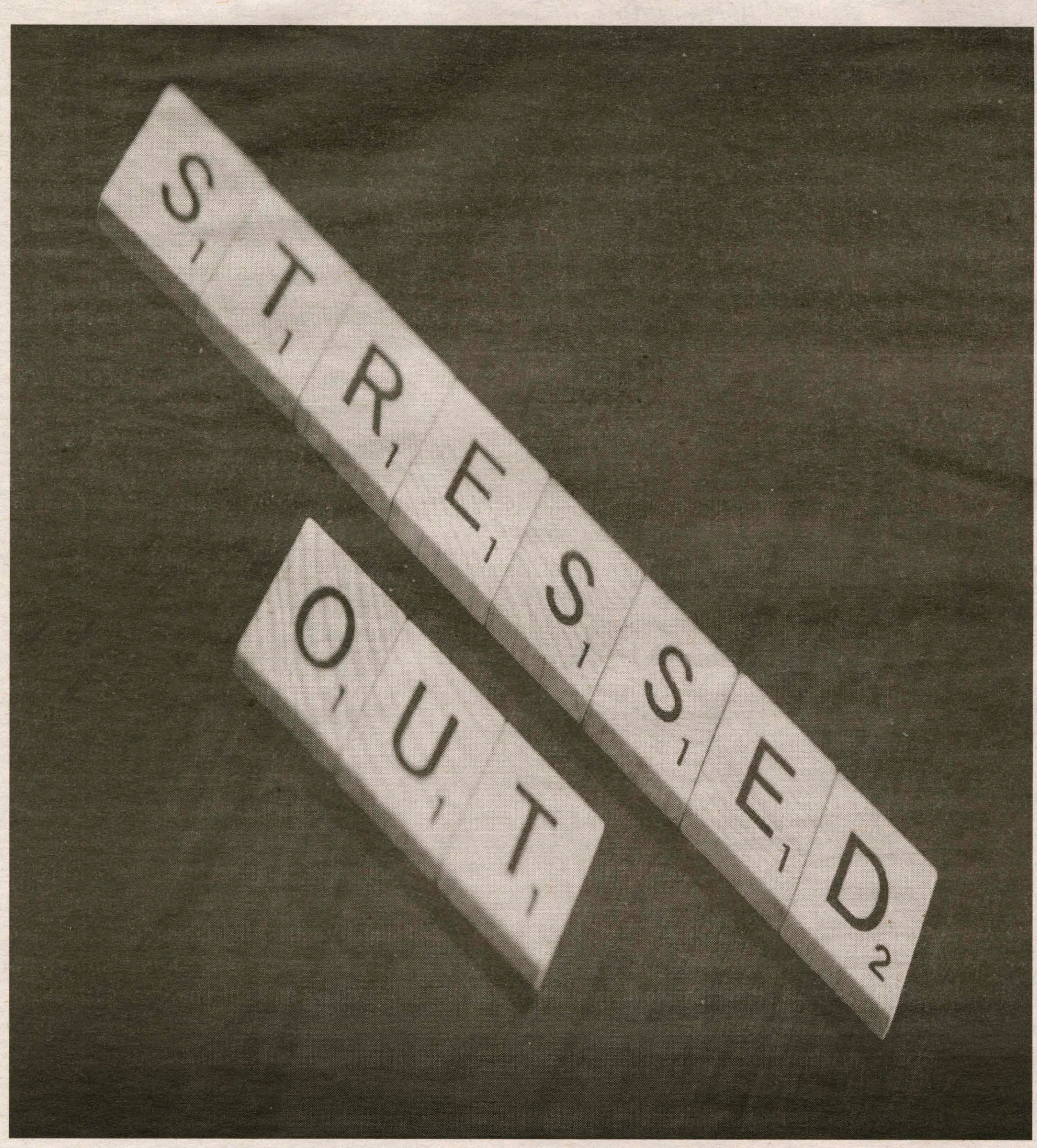

PHOTO COURTESY OF FLIKR

Bachelorette & Bachelorette

Josh Vega '20

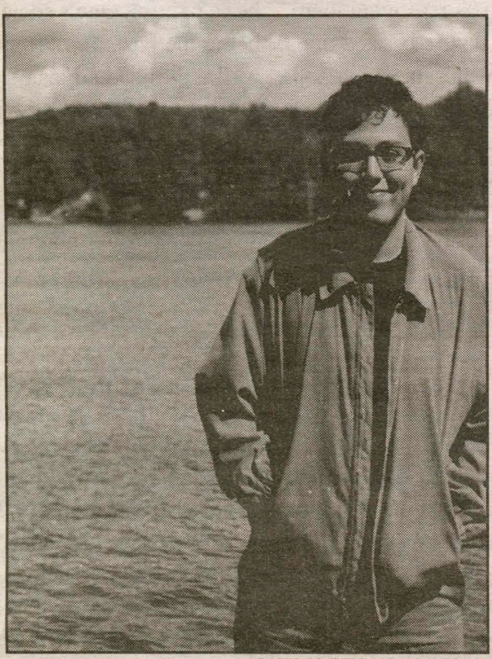
PHOTO COURTESY OF JOSH VEGA '20

Hometown: *Miami, FL.*
Home on Campus: *Minor third floor single, hmu ;)*
Major: *Sociology.*
Turn on? *Men who cry.*
Turn off? *Half of the music on WHCL (except my show of course, check it out at 11 p.m. on Fridays.)*
If you were a dorm which would you be and why? *Rogers Estate; everyone knows you're there, but no one wants to visit.*
If you had to describe yourself as the love child of any two musicians, whom would you pick and why? *Drake and Chance the Rapper because their music gives me life... literally.*
What advertising slogan best describes your life? *"The snack that smiles back" -Goldfish.*
What TV genre best describes you? *The CW.*
What's the best pick-up line you've ever used/had used on you? *"Wanna trade pics?"*
What's your type? *Tall and oblivious.*
What are three things you cannot live without? *Music, men, and my friends.*
If you were any social space, what would it be? *The Pub because a lot of hot male athletes love it there.*
Where do you go when you want to be alone? *My Minor single. Again hmu ;)*
If you could join one group on campus, what would it be? *The Men's Hockey Team.*
If you could break one rule at Hamilton and get away with it, which would you choose? *Hitting a bong in President Wippman's office.*
What would you give a thumbs up? *Being woke.*
What would you give a thumbs down? *Dad sandals.*
Who would you say is your campus crush? *The entire Men's Hockey Team*
Who would you say is your faculty crush? *That hot French TA.*
What would your perfect date be? *Netflix and chill.*
What is the weirdest thing currently in your room? *My nonexistent boyfriend.*
If you could remake the points system, what would be the number one offense? *Walking around barefoot, #patasucia.*
Lights on or lights off? *I prefer natural lighting.*

Claire Goldstein '22

PHOTO COURTESY OF CLAIRE GOLDSTEIN '22

Hometown: *Briarcliff Manor, NY*
Home on Campus: *South*
Major: *Vine Studies.*
Turn on? *"I'll sue you. My dad's a lawyer."*
Turn off? *Hating the NY Rangers.*
If you were a dorm which would you be and why? *95 College Hill Road because no one quite knows what to make of me, yet.*
If you had to describe yourself as the love child of any two musicians, whom would you pick and why? *90s Britney Spears and Beyonce because I'm the perfect combination of innocent and peppy and badass diva.*
What advertising slogan best describes your life? *"It's finger lickin' good!"*
What TV genre best describes you? *Bravo reality shows*
What's your type? *Brads and Chads that you can bring home to the fam.*
What are three things you cannot live without? *Microwave popcorn, "that's what she said" jokes, and bad reality TV shows.*
If you were any social space, what would it be? *Bundy Dining Hall.*
Where do you go when you want to be alone? *A sketchy random room in the Science Center.*
If you could join one group on campus, what would it be? *Squash, so I could be on a DI sport.*
If you could break one rule at Hamilton and get away with it, which would you choose? *Forgetting my Hill Card and sneaking past Marge.*
What would you give a thumbs up? *Stealing large sums of food from Commons.*
What would you give a thumbs down? *Leaving clothes in the washer/dryer.*
Who would you say is your campus crush? *Renee Varga.*
Who would you say is your faculty crush? *Pat Basil.*
What would your perfect date be? *A Rangers game and carbs.*
What is the weirdest thing currently in your room? *A letter board with a George W. Bush quote about fish.*
If you could remake the points system, what would be the number one offense? *Sitting by yourself at a square table in Commons.*

The political landscape of Egyptian cinema

by Ghada Emish '19
Contributing Writer

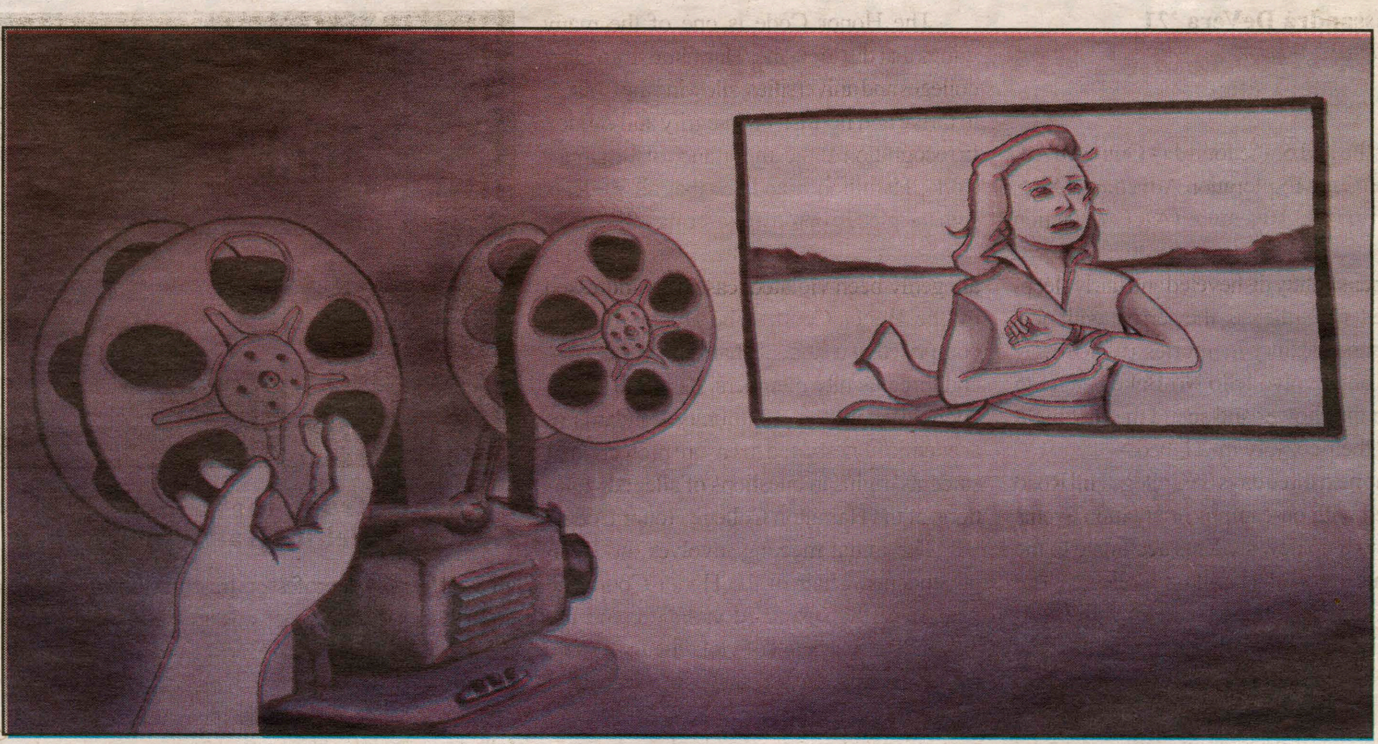

ILLUSTRATION COURTESY OF PIPPA SCHWARZKOPF '16

A depiction of a featured scene from the classic Egyptian film *Give My Heart Back* (1957)

In classical Egyptian cinema, the most prominent political theme is the Revolution of 1952, which converted Egypt from kingdom to republic. The Revolution, conducted by a unit of soldiers in the Egyptian army, aspired to eradicate social inequality mainly by redistributing property and making education more accessible to lower economic classes. Establishing these goals as a national necessity, the Revolution inspired the anticipation of a better future among the Egyptian people.

Egyptian film did not feature a representation of the countryside before director Youssef Chahine's *Son of the Nile* (1951). Chahine adapted to the challenges of shooting in the countryside to capture a genuine sense of the environment in his film. He had a political motive as well. The peasants, whose labor provided basic crops such as wheat for food production, were usually shown in a derogatory way in films. In an interview in *Cahier du Cinema*, Chahine wonders how one could disdain someone who worked to provide nutrition. Although peasants comprised most of the Egyptian population at the time, they suffered from poor work and social conditions. Incidentally, one of the goals of the Revolution of 1952 — one year after the film was produced — was to improve peasants' living conditions. *Son of the Nile* features the countryside before it was touched by the influence of the Revolution.

While the people worked to achieve the Revolution's socio-political goals, a sentiment of national cooperation prevailed. *My Wife is the Boss* (1966), directed by Fateen Abdel-Wahab, emphasizes the importance of women's employment as a form of cooperation between men and women in society. The film accentuates work as one of the national values after 1952. However, Abdel-Wahab takes the film further to emphasize that a working woman has a twofold responsibility: at home and at work. In one scene, the female protagonist puts on the glasses she normally wears at work while doing a home task right before heading out to work. Her home responsibilities are considered a type of "work," which implies that women have always been doing an essential job prior to the time that employment became a national necessity.

The national spirit geared toward creating a better future was shaken by Egypt's defeat in the War of 1967. The War was unforeseen by the Egyptian people, and involved mass casualties. Chahine describes the defeat as an event that changed his own personal view of his country's potential — it made him doubt the significance of the political changes and efforts toward a better future. During my research on musical genre, I interviewed film critics who explained that one of the reasons the musical genre ceased to be produced after 1967 is that the general mood no longer accommodated the "light" nature of these films. In 1969, only two years after the catastrophic war, Al-Sheikh's *Well of Deprivation* indirectly represents the influence of the defeat as a fracture of personal identity. In the film, the binary psychology of a young woman who suffers from schizophrenia serves as a tool to represent the incongruity between the national pride and national defeat that were part of Egyptian identity in the wake of the War. Although Al-Sheikh does not allude to the War or to Egyptian politics in his film, he echoes the dominant sentiment of uncertainty in 1967 Egypt. He was one of the earliest directors to record a psychological influence of the War.

While the Revolution of 1952 created promising socio-political modifications, the attachment to the cultural atmosphere of the Egyptian Kingdom remained. *Give My Heart Back* (1957), which depicts the Revolution as a necessary political change involves the ending of a romance between a princess and a military soldier. The destruction of this romance symbolizes the loss of the aura of royal Egypt. Culture thrived, including cinema, in the royal age, despite political corruption and social inequality. However, the protagonists of the Revolution refused to glorify the past and preferred to focus on channeling national energy toward building a promising future. Thus, there was a need to divorce the past — the history of royal Egypt — and start anew. The phrase "give my heart back" implies a want of *self-restoration* and control. This evokes the new government's goal to maintain control over the present by subsiding popular attachment to the cultural atmosphere in the royal era.

The films produced in the aftermath of the Revolution of 1952 document the political and social atmosphere at the time — making them a cultural and historical teaching tool. The national spirit, as represented through cinema, was an essential component to the functioning of the political system. Implanted in this national spirit, the filmmakers translated into visual language their understanding of the situations — or the history they witnessed and were directly influenced by.

From Where I Sit: Isolation Completes My Colorful Life

Hamilton's International Perspectives Column

by Weihan Lin '22
Contributing Writer

"Have you ever felt lonely here?" my friend asked.

"I feel lonely everywhere, but I…I think I was born to thrive in my own isolated space," I answered.

My friend was a little surprised by my response, but more so confused. I was also surprised when I realized, some years ago, how calming it was to be isolated.

My life is a paradox. I feel like an iceberg, drifting in an infinite ocean while simultaneously trying to attach myself to the colorful landscape. Unfortunately, I can have neither — I am unable to be a part of the infinity that is ocean water until the completion of the melting process. Instead, the land is getting closer to me as I submerge uncontrollably.

An iceberg's life is hardly satisfactory, given its lifelong isolation.

Based on this paradox, I am supposed to be trapped in a meaningless, drifting, and infinite isolation. I am supposed to be a cool, ignorant, and aloof human being, but my life story is quite the opposite. I am often described as a warm-hearted, straightforward, and sincere girl. I am comfortable sharing my true feelings and experiences, gaining strength from open conversation and meaningful interaction with others. I do not isolate myself from the outside world; instead, I genuinely embrace it with an endless curiosity.

My sense of isolation doesn't come from my indifference — it comes from my awareness that this world consists of complex systems that, to approach the truth of them, would need an inquiry that transcends a lifetime.

It takes time to understand a math problem, to analyze a medieval art piece, and even to appreciate the person you love. There is no quick way to understand the full picture of this world, so there is no way for me to escape my destiny of eternal confusion and isolation. I choose to live in this manner. Yes, I choose to embrace isolation as an important part of my life that triggers hope, positivity, and curiosity.

"Don't you worry about being isolated?" asked my friend.

"Yes, I do. I also worry about not feeling isolated," I answered, as I drifted into a moment of release.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WEIHAN LIN '22

Culture of Honor: Hamilton's Honor Code

by Cassandra DeVera '21
Contributing Writer

At the end of the four-day Outreach Adventure (OA), Exploration Adventure (XA), or Adirondack Adventure (AA) orientation trips, all first-years and transfer students return to campus slightly disheveled and fairly sleep-deprived; nevertheless, they arrive with new friends and distinct memories (which may or may not involve Jello No-Bake), eager to jump in the shower and spend the first night back in their cozy, twin-XL bed.

The next three days on College Hill Road are filled with on-campus orientation events guided to help new students acclimate to the academic rigor of Hamilton College. The week-long orientation concludes with President Wippman officially ringing in the new academic year during Convocation in Wellin Hall. Convocation is, arguably, the most important event of orientation. Why, you ask? Because it is when, facing the stage on which Hamilton's faculty and administration are seated, students sign the Honor Code pledge.

The Hamilton College Honor Code epitomizes the spirit of our tight-knit, welcoming community built upon a foundation of trust, honor, and respect for each and every member of our college. The Honor Code reads as follows:

"By my signature below, I affirm on my honor that I will abstain from dishonesty in all academic work. I have read and understand the Honor Code and I will abide by its provisions. I will work to strengthen the honor of Hamilton College and its students by upholding the Honor Code myself and working to ensure others do as well."

The Honor Code is one of the many things that distinguishes Hamilton from other colleges and universities, allowing the College to thrive and flourish on integrity and candor. In recognition of the importance of the Honor Code, Hamilton mandates that all students sign the pledge before registering for classes.

In situations when the Honor Code has allegedly been violated, cases are addressed by the Honor Court. The Honor Court is comprised of a student chair, seven students, and three faculty members. Its purpose is to "uphold Hamilton community standards of academic honesty and to ensure protection of students' rights in questions of alleged violations of the Hamilton College Honor Code."

The initial meeting involves the Dean of Students, Chair of the Honor Court, the witness of the suspected violation, and the respondent suspected of violating the Honor Code. For most cases, the issue is resolved within this first meeting. If, however, the respondent believes that he/she did not violate the Honor Code and wishes to proceed to a full Honor Court hearing, he or she has the option to do so.

The Spectator sat down with Evan Weinstein '19, the current chair of the Honor Court, to discuss his thoughts on Hamilton's Honor Code. Weinstein has been on the Honor Court throughout his four years at Hamilton, serving as a class representative during his freshman and sophomore year and as Chair of the Honor Court during his junior spring and senior fall.

With a student body of just 1,850 students and a student-faculty ratio of 9:1, Hamilton stresses the significance of building and maintaining relationships. "The Honor Code is one of the things that distinguishes college from high school," said Weinstein. "When students

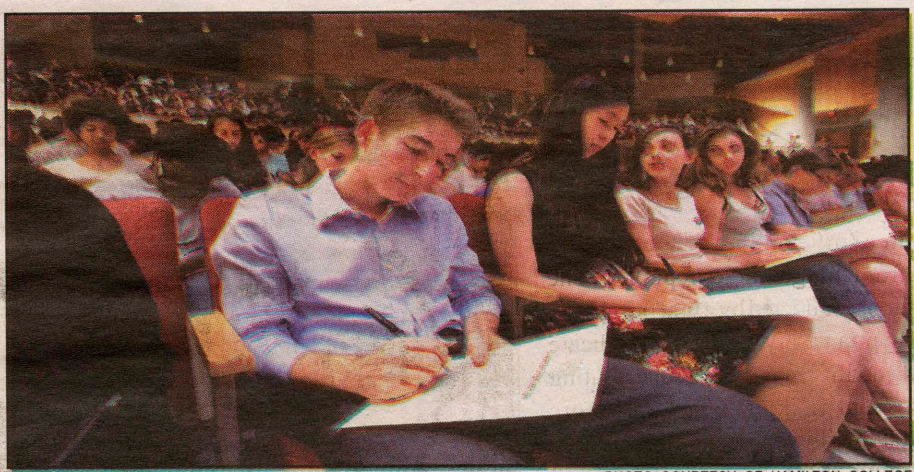

PHOTO COURTESY OF HAMILTON COLLEGE

Students from the Class of 2019 sign the College Honor Code in Wellin Hall during their orientation week in 2015

arrive at Hamilton, professors treat the students as their peers. The Honor Code is what allows them to take students more seriously and treat them as colleagues, rather than as students. They treat students as individuals they can fully trust, and the Honor Code ensures that this trust is possible. It codifies that trust into a written document." In other words, the Honor Code enables the establishment of trust between professors and students.

Since Hamilton's community revolves around trust, situations in which this trust has been violated are not taken lightly. The list of sanctions for violations of the Honor Code ranges from an initial warning, which includes a mandatory completion of an academic integrity tutorial, to expulsion. "[My job as Chair of the Honor Court] has been hard in the sense that I've had to tell people that they're failing a course or that they're being expelled from the school," Weinstein says. "My job is rewarding in the sense that, as a result of having to tell people the consequences of, arguably, the worst part of their academic career, I've become more empathetic, understanding, and forgiving."

Weinstein is not the only person who focuses on the positive after these difficult situations. Students learn from their experience and generally do not commit second violations; recognizing that writing and communication are at the core of Hamilton's values, students find gratification in sharing their original thoughts and ideas.

Hamilton has fostered an environment which underscores the importance of community, academic integrity, and diversity of intellectual thought. The Honor Code represents a pillar of trust, establishes a significant message for the student body, and builds confidence and character by emphasizing that students should take pride in calling their work their own.

More information regarding the Honor Code procedures and sanctions can be found on Hamilton's website.

"What Is" speaker series talks impeachment

by Tiffany Lopes '21
Contributing Writer

During the "What Is: Impeachment?" discussion at the Days-Massolo Center on Wednesday, Sept. 12, Philip A. Klinkner, James S. Sherman Professor of Government, explained how impeachment is defined, its brief history in the United States, and what it takes to be impeached. These issues have been in the public discourse following President Trump's election and the allegations of corruption and illegal dealings he may have had with Russia.

So, what is impeachment? Professor Klinkner defined impeachment as a "mechanism within the Constitution whereby elected government officials can be removed from office." A simple majority of the House of Representatives can vote to approve an article of impeachment for the president's illegal actions, including misdemeanors and crimes. They then bring charges if there's enough evidence to move forward with a trial. In the event of an impeachment, the president would be tried by the Senate and removed from office with a two-thirds vote from the Senate and from the House. The process takes place in the legislature as part of its checks and balances system. A presiding judge, the Chief of Justice of the Supreme Court, must also be present, however, they do not play a significant role in the process.

Klinkner described the two times where an impeachment procedure occurred in the United States — in 1868, with President Andrew Johnson, and in 1998, with President Bill Clinton. Andrew Johnson, as Klinkner described, was one of the most racist presidents in U.S. history, characterized by lenient policies towards white Southerners. Johnson violated the Tenure of Office Act, which was a federal law that aimed to restrict the President's ability to remove office-holders without the Senate's approval. Bill Clinton, meanwhile, was tried for impeachment on charges of perjury and obstruction of justice following his affair with Monica Lewinsky. Neither Clinton nor Johnson were impeached; Johnson's impeachment failed by only one vote, while Clinton's impeachment failed by many (actually causing him to gain even more popularity). Richard Nixon did not face the impeachment process because he resigned, but most certainly would have faced it had he not following the Watergate Scandal and his failure to comply with Congress' subpoena requests.

The third major area of impeachment which Klinkner discussed was about what it really takes to be impeached in the U.S. Klinkner said that while high crimes and misdemeanors are what constitute the grounds for an impeachment, a misdemeanor can mean many things — for example, a parking ticket falls under that category, but we likely wouldn't impeach a president over that. "High crimes" is also nebulous language, and, ultimately, it constitutes whatever the Senate and House of Representatives decides it to be. Klinkner said that it is also important to note that every impeachment that has occurred has only happened when the president is of the opposite party from the party that controls Congress, which is why the issue is so dependent on the political makeup of Congress at a given time.

Two other important factors to consider are that sitting presidents cannot be indicted for crimes, and impeachments cannot be appealed to the Supreme Court. There is also the issue of whether a president can be impeached for acts that occurred before taking office. Klinkner concluded that there are two truly decisive factors: the severity of the crime and who's in control of Congress.

Towards the end of the discussion, the question about the likelihood of President Trump facing an impeachment was raised. Klinkner responded that much does depend on Robert Mueller's investigation, and that while Mueller could issue a report and give it to the Justice Department to catalyze an impeachment process, that's unlikely to

PHOTO COURTESY OF REFERENCE.COM

happen. If it were blatantly obvious that Trump had engaged in criminal activity, then there would be some possibility of impeachment, but he would not be impeached over obscure allegations. If the impeachment process does take place, there would be a need for 16 Republican Senate votes, which is very unlikely to happen. He says that Democrats must also consider how far they're really willing to take this, since it can simply lead to greater popularity for Trump and the Republican Party, similar to what happened after Clinton's failed impeachment.

Professor Klinkner stressed that the main takeaway from the discussion is that impeachment is ultimately a political act, not a legal one. He also recommended that community members check out the narrative podcast "Slow Burn", produced by *Slate* magazine, for those who are interested in learning more about impeachment.

Campus Activities Board comedy show review: Stand Up and Vote

by Emma Mae Regan '22
Contributing Writer

On Friday, Sept. 14, the Campus Activities Board (CAB) hosted Mike Birbiglia's "Stand Up and Vote" comedy show in the Carol Woodhouse Wellin Performance Hall. Birbiglia is an American comedian who has acted in productions like *Trainwreck* and *Orange is the New Black*, produced the films *Sleepwalk with Me* and *Don't Think Twice*, released four comedy albums, and written a book.

Birbiglia stated that he was inspired to create the "Stand Up and Vote" tour for two reasons. First, he claimed that not enough Americans vote during elections and do not consider their lack of participation to be an "emergency." Second, as a father, Birbiglia thinks that the United States has "gotta figure this voting thing out" before his daughter is eligible to vote.

With these issues in mind, Birbiglia developed an event that tied together stand up comedy and voter registration. In addition to Hamilton College, the "Stand Up and Vote" tour has visited Ithaca College, Hofstra University, Pace University, Princeton University, and Rider University. The tour is donating its revenue from ticket sales to organizations like Headcount, Vote.org, and Rock the Vote, whose missions are to encourage Americans to vote and be politically active.

At the door to Wellin, viewers were greeted by CAB and the Hamilton Votes (HamVotes) committee. HamVotes representatives used the event as an opportunity to register students to vote and hand out information on the voting process.

In the most professional manner possible, Birbiglia opened with a disclaimer that hosting was not in his repertoire. After complimenting the College on its $70,000 tuition and Wellin's "laugh panels", Birbiglia recalled his own experience at Georgetown University. A notable component of Birbiglia's self-deprecating humor was his vulnerability. Birbiglia admitted that he has struggled with health issues like REM sleep behavior disorder, cancer, lyme disease, and diabetes, and did not feel prepared for fatherhood. However, he tactfully juxtaposed these somber topics by gushing about his wife, "Clo", and daughter, Oona. Birbiglia's candid opinions and sly jabs made his commentary on his personal life and American society strong bookends for the show.

In addition to Birbiglia, "Stand Up and Vote" featured comedians Melissa Villaseñor, Gary Gulman, and Phoebe Robinson. Villaseñor is a cast member on *Saturday Night Live* and was a semi-finalist on the sixth season of *America's Got Talent*. In her routine, Villaseñor humorously criticized summer love, her poor Spanish skills, and living alone. However, it was her impressions that really had the crowd rolling.

Villaseñor highlighted her love for video games by mimicking a Sim and delivering an enthusiastic performance of *The Legend of Zelda* Theme, which she referred to as her "would-be stripper song." Another highlight was Villaseñor's real and hypothetical banters with her family, like imitating her mother's "dirty backseat driving", mimicking her grandmother's disapproval, and her pompous rendition of Nickelback's "How You Remind Me" during her description of her ideal death. Overall, Villaseñor's quirky stage presence and broad vocal range made for an energetic performance that kept audience members on their toes.

Gulman was a finalist on NBC's *Last Comic Standing* and has appeared on numerous late night shows, including *Jimmy Kimmel Live!*, Conan, and *The Late Show* with Stephen Colbert. Although many comedians use themselves as a source of humor, Gulman demonstrated a particular knack for this tactic because he was not afraid to exaggerate his strengths and flaws. He announced that he is an "authentic human being" for getting "off of straws," and jokingly blamed his Jewish background for his inability to play hockey and his "creative" college nickname of "Jew". Gulman also seamlessly sequenced unrelated topics to make amusingly perceptive conclusions on human behavior. He "blamed" Generation X's rudeness on a clear lack of hydration, credited Christianity as being the "most successful spin off in history", and reprimanded Chipotle eaters for "pointing" while ordering. By humorizing daily life and human nature, Gulman allowed the audience to relate to his content and even make fun of themselves in the process.

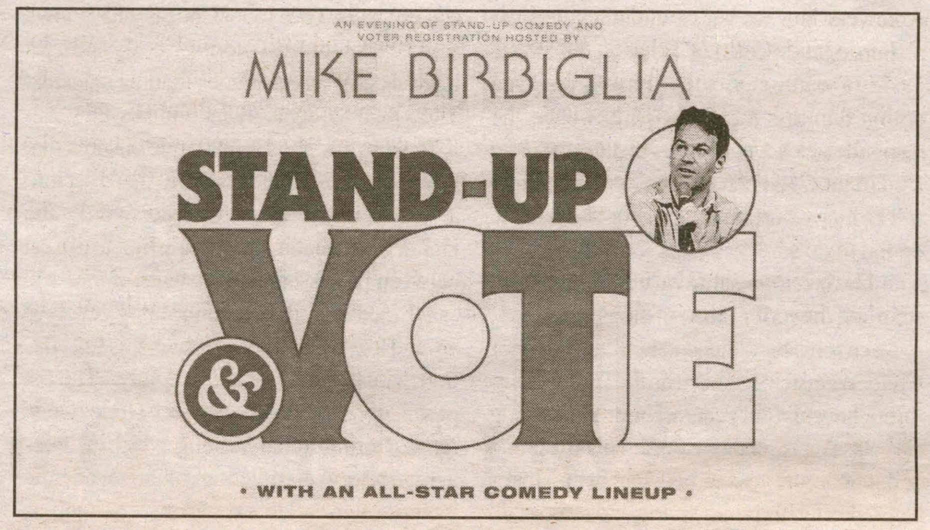

PHOTO COURTESY OF RIDER.EDU

The official poster of Mike Birbiglia's *Stand Up and Vote* tour

Robinson is a main actor in the Netflix movie *Ibiza*, created and co-hosts the podcast *2 Dope Queens*, and wrote *You Can't Touch My Hair (And Other Things I Still Have to Explain)*. Robinson's raw humor and conversational tone made her routine carefree and casual. For example, Robinson bonded with Ashley Huntington '20 over a passion for women's studies and "wanting to change the world," and every spectator could relate to Robinson's mortification as she elaborated on her embarrassing encounter in front of a crush. Although Robinson approached subjects like sex, racism, and political protest in a light-hearted manner, she was clearly thoughtful in her delivery, as her jokes got the audience to both laugh and appreciate the world from her perspective. As Robinson left the stage, audience members were left wishing they could receive a voicemail from Oprah too. Birbiglia solemnly closed the show with some advice for students: find a few issues to be passionate about and take time to research candidates before voting.

"Stand Up and Vote" was an event fit for all audiences, as it hosted a diverse lineup of personalities and sustained a relevant and consistently funny dialogue. Not only did the show entertain audiences, but it successfully promoted political engagement on campus through the presence of HamVotes and the messages delivered to spectators by the comedians.

Bringing physics to center stage: Massimo Schuster blends the arts and sciences with zeal

by Nick Lyon '22
Contributing Writer

As I settled into my seat in the Barrett Theater, I groaned. A 90-minute soliloquy on the history of physics? Not my first choice for a Monday night. But, not wanting to pass up the opportunity for extra credit in my astronomy class, I prepared myself for a droning lecture on Einstein and his buddies. Luckily, I could not have been more wrong.

Massimo Schuster, an expert puppeteer and performer, delivered a delightful, down-to-earth telling of how our modern understandings of the universe came to be. But before he got too deep into the physics, he told us of how this idea of his came about.

The show opened with him discussing how he came to think about this topic for a performance. Schuster had always created shows born from his passions, so he thought, "Why not physics?" Acknowledging his own shortcomings, he detailed his journey to find a physicist that shared in his interest for the project, all the while keeping the audience intrigued with vigor, humor, and wit. He shared how he went about finding this physicist, searching in the University of Marseille (where he lived at the time) directory and meeting with various physics professors about the project. After meeting with a number of them over several grueling months, he realized that none of them shared that creative spark for which he so dearly longed. He continued with other performances, touring across Europe and the United States, until one morning, while sitting in a small café in southern Tuscany, he found a name in the newspaper: Carlo Rovelli. Rovelli had just written and published a piece called *Seven Brief Lessons on Physics*, and in the article, he wrote with a passion that intrigued Schuster. He contacted Rovelli and found that he was a professor of physics at the very same University of Marseille. Rovelli and Schuster, after about six months of dyssynchronous schedules and conflicts, finally managed to meet in person, and after a brief conversation, Schuster knew he had the spark.

Schuster, with palpable excitement in his voice, recounted to the audience how he raced home and began pouring his thoughts — billions of stars and celestial bodies and the grand motions of space itself — onto paper until he admitted that this was no way to begin his performance, for it was far too imposing for an audience just getting settled. At the time, he was unsure of where to start. Simply looking at his own finger inspired him and spurred him to action.

He told of photons hitting and scattering off of his finger, and bouncing into our eyes to be processed, and communicated it to our brains. He detailed how light travels across space and time, and took the audience back in time, with a seamless transition into a history of the first physicist, Thales of Miletus.

He then went on to adopt the lecture model of an ancient physicist, who would have been surrounded by townspeople of Greece coming to this man for answers on their questions of the universe. In doing so, he provided delightfully charming commentary on the various shortcomings of ancient philosophy and religion, some themes extending throughout history and into our world today. He began with Thales, and moved to the most famous names in physics, from Eratosthenes, to Newton, to Galileo, to Kepler, to Copernicus, all the way up to the more modern names of Thomas Young, Albert Einstein, and Peter Higgs.

In delivering the individual histories of these great pioneers of science, he wove them all together to deliver to the audience an abridged, but thorough, history of physics in an extraordinarily fun and captivating way.

The first two weeks of *The Last Five Years*

by Natasha Lane '20
Staff Writer

Growing up, one of the most important lessons you are taught is that in order to succeed, you need to be passionate about the work you are doing. After less than a minute of watching Maggie Luddy '20 and Kenny Letts '21 in rehearsal for their independent production of *The Last Five Years*, their passion and drive for the project became evident. As I put my bag down and began to prepare to interview them, it was interesting to see their dynamic as they moved across the stage singing, directing, and taking notes on what they could improve upon. Luddy and Letts have been officially co-directing, and in rehearsal for, the two-person musical for two weeks now. During the interview, their eagerness was palpable.

The Last Five Years is a musical following the five-year relationship of 23-year-olds Jamie and Cathy, from beginning to end. The storyline works in a way that is chronological from Jamie's perspective, and reverse chronological from Cathy's perspective, with the two narratives intersecting at their engagement. When the musical first came to Broadway, its premise centered around the idea of the two characters never being in the same scene until the engagement, when their stories finally came together. The popular Netflix adaptation of the musical pays little attention to this stage direction, and has its two stars, Anna Kendrick and Jeremy Jordan, in multiple scenes together. In their production, Luddy and Letts are looking to find a happy medium. "During the songs where traditionally in the Broadway version they don't interact, we have minimal interaction from the person who's not primarily in the song," Letts explains. "So they're there reacting but they're not necessarily singing." Luddy continues this thought, saying that the pair "adapted it in order to create a more intimate connection between the characters" so the viewers have a better understanding of Jamie and Cathy's relationship.

The duo came together during the 2018 spring semester after expressing their individual desires to bring the musical to Hamilton. Letts describes how their version of *The Last Five Years* is particularly relevant, as they are "setting it in 2018 and incorporating technology and social media." They explain how the story "shows the struggles of finding ways to support one another through hardship and competition," which is a dynamic to which many people can relate. Any student wanting to stage an independent production must go through Untitled at Large — Hamilton's student-run theater organization — and submit a formal proposal to the E-Board. After receiving their funding from Student Assembly, Luddy and Letts started rehearsal earlier this month, and will be working closely with the Untitled at Large E-Board during the rehearsal process. While this is Luddy's second time co-directing an independent performance, the fact that she is directing herself instead of an ensemble is an entirely new experience. "Most of the time one of us is performing and one of us is directing," she says, "so within one rehearsal you get to play both roles, and we're complete 50/50 partners in that way." Letts adds that "we can change whatever we want about a scene, whenever we want and not step on any toes because it's just the two of us." He goes on to say that a major benefit of the two-person premise of *The Last Five Years* is that it can sometimes be easier than working with a full cast because, "there's been a lot of moments when one of us has an idea and we're able to just run with it because the formatting gives us the freedom to do so."

When asked whether directing and starring in an independent production at Hamilton is worthwhile, the two immediately started gushing about how beneficial the experience is. Luddy gives it an exciting "10/10 would recommend," and with this being the third independent student production she has starred in and the second she's co-directed, she is definitely a reliable source. While this is Kenny's first time co-directing a production at Hamilton, he talked about the creativity and potential he has already been able to tap into during these first two weeks working with Luddy. Independent shows on campus give aspiring actors and directors a new platform to explore their talents, and it seems like it is a nothing but beneficial experience.

The tentative dates for Luddy and Letts' production of *The Last Five Years* are Dec. 7 and 8 in the Barrett Theater in the Kennedy Center for Theatre and the Studio Arts (KTSA) and will, hopefully, inspire more students to take initiative and start thinking about their own independent projects.

Women to Watch Out For: one-on-one with Laura Boyman '20

by Grace Passanante '20
Staff Writer

This week's "Woman to Watch Out For" is Laura Boyman. Boyman is a Theater major and a Women and Gender Studies minor in the class of 2020 from New Providence, NJ. On campus, she is the Head Music Director of the all-women's a cappella group, Special K. Boyman also works for the Office of Admissions as a tour guide. She has participated in Hamilton College Choir in the past, and looks forward to getting back into it her senior year. Amidst this array of activities, Boyman is drawn most toward stage management. She credits theater professor Craig Latrell, as well as Resident Designer and Production Manager for Theater, Jeff Larson, for exposing her to stage management and allowing her to come into her own. Both Latrell and Larson gave Boyman the opportunity to do stage management — something she had never done before Hamilton. Thrown into something new and exciting, Boyman fell in love with stage management and is considering stage managing as a career after graduation.

At Hamilton, Boyman worked tech for the production of *Mr. Burns* in fall 2017, and is currently stage-managing *King Stag*, which is set to open on Nov. 2 and run through Nov. 10. When asked why she enjoys stage management, Boyman replied that "there are some people that enjoy putting out fires." Boyman loves the adrenaline rush from working behind the scenes and putting something together as big as a mainstage play. Backstage, one needs to be aware of everything that's going on, as well as solve any issue that arises. Every time she accomplishes a new and challenging task while doing tech, the rewarding feeling keeps her coming back.

This summer, Boyman was a sound design intern for the Shakespeare Theater in Madison, NJ, where she worked three jobs at the same time. First, she worked under a master electrician, working with lights, sound, and set design. While on the job, Boyman was required to climb a 20-foot scaffolding and hang lights in the outdoor theater — sometimes without a harness.

At the Shakespeare Theater, Boyman was also the sound design intern. This meant that she did sound design for every single performance. Boyman is specifically enjoyed sound design because it is a combination of theater and music. As a music director, Boyman enjoys nitty gritty details. She remarked that she would play with sounds in the theater for hours. She came to learn that even a millisecond crossfade makes a big difference in a show. Boyman hopes to do more theater-related sound design in the future.

PHOTO COURTESY OF LAURA BOYMAN'20

Boyman, right, performing alongside Noelani Stevenson '19 in the Bare Naked Theater production of Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*

Lastly, Boyman served as the board operator on the outdoor stage. She made sure that the sound equipment, such as the microphones and speakers, were up and running. During the last week of performances at the Shakespeare Theater, one of the stage managers broke her ankle and could not work, so Boyman swiftly rose to the occasion and became the assistant stage manager for the last two performances.

While she worked three jobs, Boyman rarely got a day off. In total, she had only three days off for the entire summer. Her job was also unpaid, but she gained experience that she could use to her advantage. Boyman now feels even more confident working in Hamilton's Theater Department. She also has a strong set of transferable skills that she can potentially use in the television or digital media industries post graduation. Boyman's summer internship at the Shakespeare Theater made her realize that it is indeed possible for Theater majors to get a job.

If you don't know Laura Boyman, but you attended the recent performance of *Twelfth Night* on the KTSA lawn, you might recognize her as the lead role of Viola (with pink hair). Boyman played the same role in highschool and was excited to have the chance to revisit it. She is a "huge Shakespeare nerd" and enjoyed arriving back on campus early to put on one of his plays with her friends. The role of Viola is one of her favorite roles that she has performed. If you want to see Laura Boyman perform again, attend an a cappella concert, where you can see her directing Special K, as well as managing the mainstage production of *King Stag* in November.

Movie-watching at the Oneida Movieplex has just been taken to a whole new level of comfort and relaxation. The Oneida Movieplex is thrilled to announce the installation of luxury plush, fully reclining chairs that provide audiences with a first-class movie watching experience. Moviegoers can lean back and relax as they enjoy a premium recliner that features a powered push button recline mechanism and superior leg room for extra comfort. All nine auditoriums in the complex now boast reclining chairs.

In addition to the plush recliners, the Oneida Movieplex is also offering $5 movie tickets for all showtimes before noon, $5 tickets all day Tuesday and $1 small popcorn with each admission on Wednesdays. Kick back in the new recliners and take advantage of the ultimate movie viewing experience and wide selection of films that the Oneida Movieplex offers. Upcoming movies include Fahrenheit 11/9, The Wife, The House With a Clock in Its Walls, Life Itself, Night School, Small Foot, A Star is Born, Venom, Goosebumps, Halloween, The Nutcracker and the Four Realms, Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald, Ralph Breaks the Internet, Mary Poppins Returns and Aquaman.

With all the fabulous movies being released we hope that everyone will come out and experience the thrills and escapism that only movies can offer.

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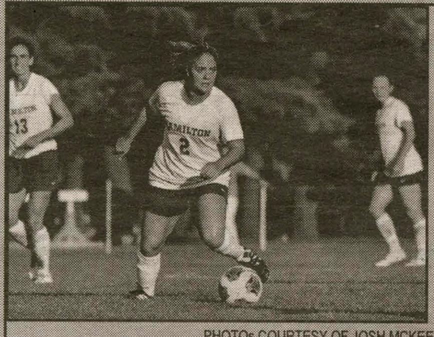
When will your reflection show...

... your experience at Hamilton?

We're now looking for seniors willing to write about their reflections; email us at featspec@hamilton.edu.

Jealous you weren't picked to be the Bachelorette or Bachelor of the week? Nominate yourself or others by emailing featspec@hamilton.edu

Week of Sept. 20 Home Games



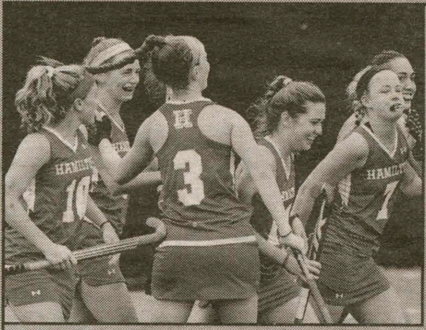
PHOTOs COURTESY OF JOSH MCKEE

Women's Soccer

#16 Women's soccer (2-1-1, 2-1 NESCAC) will play Connecticut College (3-1, 0-1 NESCAC). Cat Gambino '21 (left) was the NESCAC women's soccer player of the week last week. This weekend's game will be on Saturday, Sept. 22 at 11:00 a.m. on Love Field.

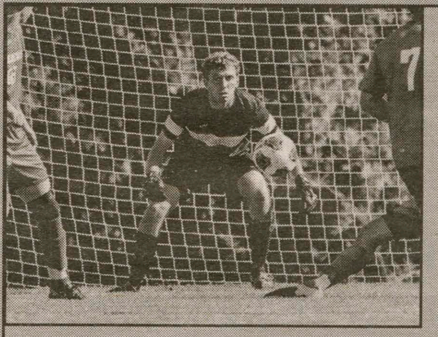
Women's Soccer

#16 Women's soccer (2-1-1, 2-1 NESCAC) will play #6 Middlebury College (5-0, 2-0 NESCAC). When they played in 2017, the two teams tied after a double overtime. This weekend's game will be on Sunday, Sept. 23 at 11:00 a.m. on Love Field in Clinton, N.Y.



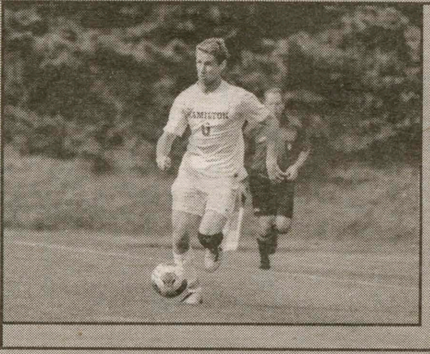
Field Hockey

#14 Field hockey (4-1, NESCAC 2-1), will play Connecticut College (2-2, NESCAC 0-1) this weekend. Last year, Hamilton lost to the Camels 0-1 during the away game. This week's game will be on Saturday, Sept. 22 at 12:00 p.m. on Goodfriend Field.



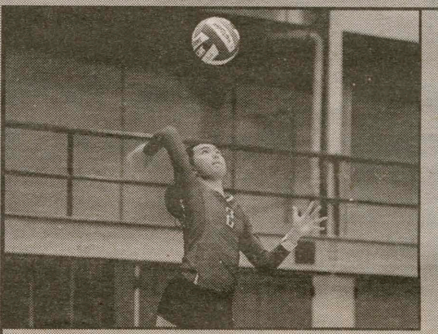
Men's Soccer

Men's soccer (4-1, 2-0 NESCAC) will play Middlebury College (2-1-1, NESCAC 1-1). Middlebury is on a two-game win streak. The last time the two teams met, Hamilton had a tough 0-1 loss. This weekend's game will be on Sunday, Sept. 23 at 1:30 p.m. on Love Field.



Men's Soccer

Men's soccer (4-1, 2-0 NESCAC) will play #21 Connecticut College (4-0, 1-0 NESCAC). Both teams are undefeated in the conference, and all of Hamilton's wins this season have been shutouts. The game will be on Saturday, Sept. 22 at 1:30 p.m. on Love Field.



Volleyball

Volleyball (2-5, 0-3 NESCAC) will play their first home game against SUNY Geneseo (7-5). Hamilton was blanked 3-0 during their last matchup in 2016. This week's match will be on Wednesday, Sept. 26 at 7:00 p.m. in the Margaret Bundy Scott Field House.

Women's soccer gains momentum

from Soccer, page 16

Bobcats from Bates College. The women coasted to a 2-0 win, featuring goals from Alex Fontana '20 and Cat Gambino '21.

The following day however, the Continentals matched up with Sage College in Albany, N.Y. which ended in a 1-1 tie. The out-of-conference game was one that the Continentals expected to win, yet their main takeaway from the tied contest was that the team needs to take advantage of their offensive opportunities and attack their opponents when they make mistakes. Throughout the first four games, the Continentals tallied 100 shots, but only five reached the back of the net. In order to have success throughout the postseason, the team is seeking more precision on offense and looking to maintain their solid defense.

On Sept. 15, the men's and women's soccer teams welcomed the Trinity College Bantams to campus for a couple of exhilarating contests. The men's team netted a goal in the 82nd minute from Noah Giovannelli '21 to win 1-0. However, the women's team made fans wait a little bit longer. The 0-0 tie was taken into the 90th minute when Gambino scored off a rebound from a free kick from Fontana with 19 seconds remaining. The 1-0 win puts the Continentals at 2-1-1 overall, with one of their biggest NESCAC weekends coming up.

While the Continentals have had some early success, this appears to be the beginning of the women's soccer program turning the corner. "We have set a goal to host a NESCAC tournament game and take one of the top playoff spots. We want to secure an NCAA tournament bid and go as far as we possibly can," Discenza said. Other players have spoken highly of the camaraderie that the team has on and off the field. In terms of leadership, the upperclassmen have done a great job welcoming the first-years to the program, ensuring that the team plays and communicates well on the field. Olivia Rodrigues '21 said, "We always play as hard as we can for each other, and the fact that we get along so well outside of soccer definitely helps us on the field."

The Continentals have set some impressive goals for this season and are looking to maintain the same intensity that they brought to their first few games. If the team stays healthy and continues to win their regular season NESCAC games, there is a lot of success to come for the Continentals.

Hamilton's women's soccer will take on Connecticut College on Saturday, Sept. 22 at 11:00 a.m. and Middlebury College on Sunday, Sept. 23 at 11:00 a.m. Men's soccer takes on the same teams on Saturday, Sept. 22 at 1:30 p.m. and Sunday, Sept. 23 at 1:30 p.m. respectively. All games are on Love Field.

Last week's scores: Week of Sept. 13

#16 Field hockey (4-1) on Sept. 15 vs. #14 Trinity College

	1	2	F
#14 Trinity	1	1	2
#16 Hamilton	2	1	3

Football (0-1) on Saturday, Sept. 15 vs. Tufts University

	1	2	3	4	F
Tufts	9	6	7	7	29
Hamilton	0	0	2	0	2

Men's soccer (4-1) on Sunday, Sept. 15 vs. Trinity College

	1	2	F
Trinity	0	0	0
Hamilton	0	1	1

Volleyball (2-5) on Saturday, Sept. 8 at Wesleyan College

	1	2	3	F
Wesleyan	25	25	25	3
Hamilton	14	10	21	0

#16 Field hockey (4-1) on Sept. 16 vs. #1 Middlebury College

	1	2	F
#1 Middlebury	3	1	4
#16 Hamilton	0	0	0

Men's soccer (4-1) on Sunday, Sept. 16 vs. SUNY Oneanta

	1	2	F
Oneanta	0	0	0
Hamilton	1	0	1

Volleyball (2-5) on Saturday, Sept. 14 at Connecticut College

	1	2	3	4	5	F
Conn.	22	28	25	22	15	2
Ham.	25	26	21	25	6	3

Volleyball (2-5) on Tuesday, Sept. 18 at Williams College

	1	2	3	4	F
Williams	25	18	25	25	3
Hamilton	12	25	19	21	1

Women's golf on Sept. 15 at William Smith Invitational: 1st of 11

Men's golf on Sept. 15 at Middlebury Invitational: tie for 9th of 22

Women's golf on Sept. 16 at William Smith Invitational: 1st of 11

Men's golf on Sept. 16 at Middlebury Invitational: 8th of 22

Men's and women's tennis impress at Flying Dutchman and Ithaca College Invitational

Ben Wescott '20
Contributing Writer

Hamilton's men's and women's tennis teams both had strong performances in their respective tournaments this weekend, Sept. 15 and 16. The men competed in Schenectady, N.Y and the women in Ithaca, N.Y.

In the men's tournament that featured St. Lawrence, SUNY Oneonta, and Union College, the men reached the finals in all four singles flights, claiming the championship in flights "A" and "C."

In flight "A," Max Zimmerman '21 proved himself to be the top dog of the tournament, winning all of his matches without dropping a set and improving his career singles record at the Dutchman Invite to 6-0.

Meanwhile, Joe Reiner '22 continued an impressive start to his career at Hamilton by following up last week's "C" flight victory at the St. Lawrence University Fall Classic with another tournament victory this weekend, capturing the "C" flight crown again with a convincing 6-4, 6-2 win over St. Lawrence's Spencer Whitmire.

Tim Derby '21 reached the final in the tournament's "B" singles flight, while Lucas Suhl '22 did the same in flight "D."

On the women's side, the Continentals competed at the Ithaca College Invitational, playing singles against Union College and St. Lawrence University.

Three players - Sophia Aulicino '21, Sarah Bargamian '22, and Audrey Chor '21 - stood out for their singles prowess, staying undefeated for the entire weekend.

The women's team won 8 of their 14 singles matches at the invitational, with Kat Roberts '22 and Becca Ingber '22 also posting victories for the Lady Continentals.

Said plater Jane Haffer, "this year is all about developing our program and setting the younger girls up to do great things."

Coach Matt Brisotti also commented about the women's performance, "the team played strong, winning many singles and doubles against tough competition.

> *"Our team is very focused on maintaining a strong team first attitude and working together to improve our games everyday at practice."*
> *– Coach Matt Brisotti*

Lately we have placed a lot of emphasis on strengthening our doubles games."

In doubles play, the men won 7 of 12 matches, while the women posted an impressive 5-0 doubles record.

Looking forward, Coach Brisotti commented, "We will finish the fall season with the regional ITA tournament against other Division III institutions, mainly in New York and New Jersey. It is always a strong field, but we are ready for the challenge and to finish out the season strong with goals to work on for the Spring."

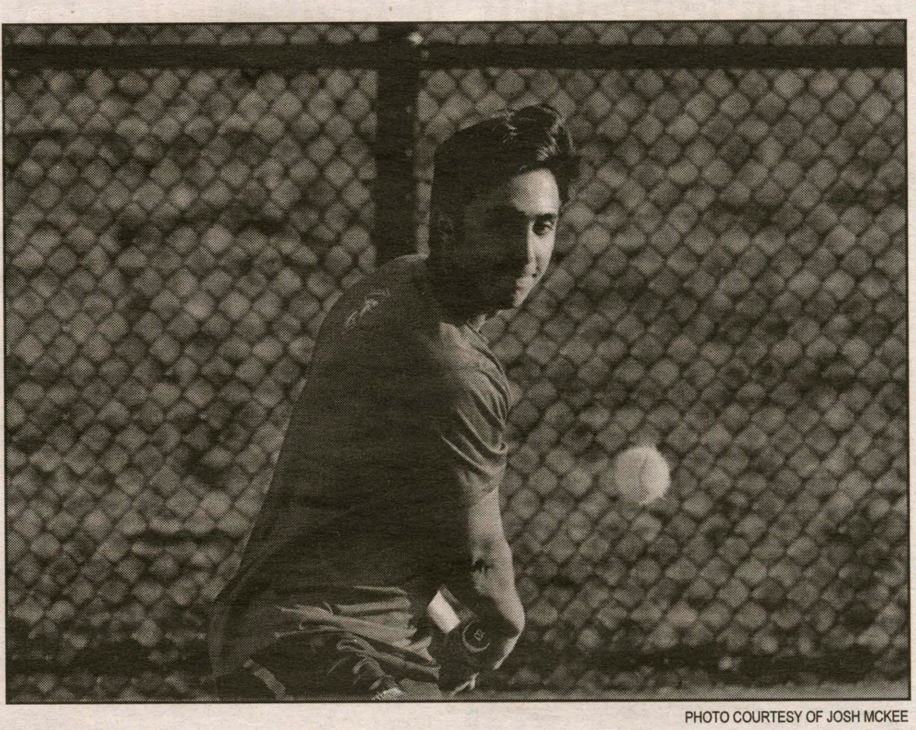


PHOTO COURTESY OF JOSH MCKEE

Max Zimmerman '21 prepares a backhand. Zimmerman took the "A" crown this weekend at Union College.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JOSH MCKEE

Audrey Chor '21 sets up a forehand during a match. Chor dominated at Ithaca and finished this weekend's tournament undefeated.

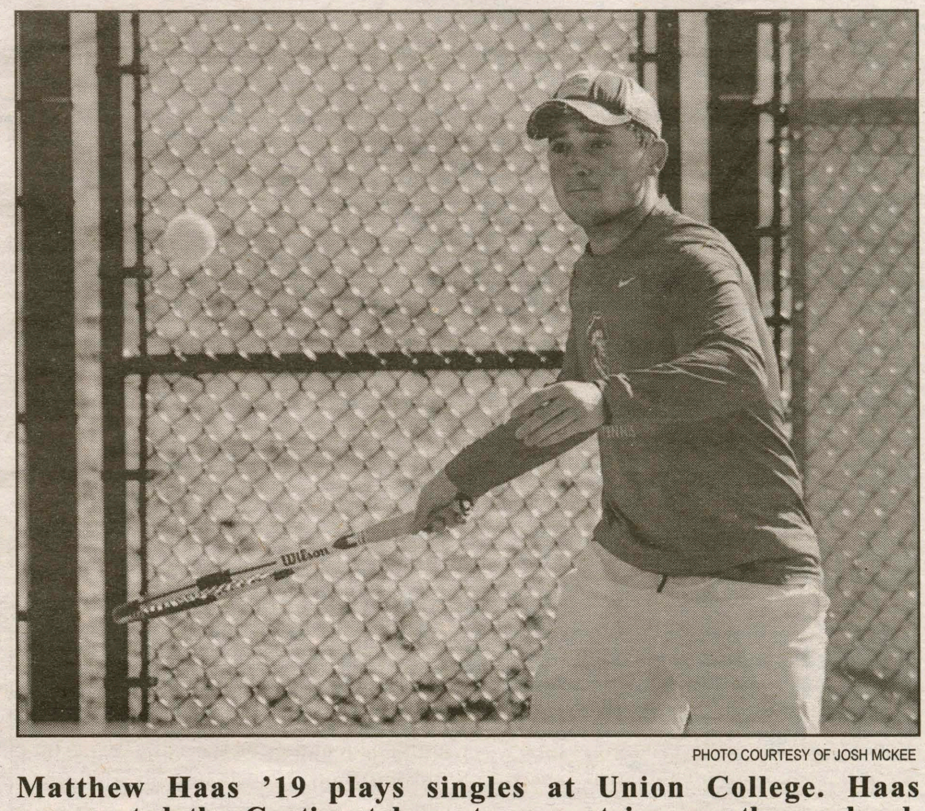


PHOTO COURTESY OF JOSH MCKEE

Matthew Haas '19 plays singles at Union College. Haas represented the Continentals as team captain over the weekend.

What you missed this week in athletics

Women's soccer forward Cat Gambino '21 was named NESCAC women's soccer player for the week of Sept. 17. Gambino was second on the team in points last season, which was her first year on the team. This year so far, Gambino has scored at least one point in every game so far. She leads the team with seven points and three goals. Her seven points are good for third place for all of NESCAC's women's soccer players.

Hamilton's field hockey team has risen from a #19 national ranking at the beginning of the season to #14 overall after this past weekend's win against Trinity College and loss against #1 Middlebury College. The survey polls Division III coaches to determine the most promising field hockey programs across all of Division III. Forward Michaela Giuttari '20 is second in the NESCAC for goals, and goaltender Julia Booth '19 leads the NESCAC in saves.

Men's soccer has 4 shutouts in five games, shutting out their opponents in each of their four wins. Hamilton leads the NESCAC men's soccer teams in shutouts and is second in goals scored and shot on goal percentage across conference games. On the other side of the paint, Hamilton's home game attendance is top in the NESCAC, with an average of 470 fans per NESCAC game played on home turf.

Women's soccer starts season strong, leads NESCAC in shots

by Matt Cappelletti '21
Contributing Writer

	1	2	F
#1 Williams	1	1	2
#16 Hamilton	1	0	1

	1	2	F
Bates	0	0	0
#16 Hamilton	2	0	2

	1	2	F
Sage	0	1	1
#16 Hamilton	0	1	1

	1	2	F
Trinity	0	0	0
#16 Hamilton	0	1	1

The Hamilton College Women's Soccer team has come out of the gates hot this fall. Last year, the Continentals chalked up a 10-6-2 record and received an NCAA tournament bid for the first time since becoming a member of the New England Small College Athletic Conference (NESCAC). However, their quarterfinal matchup with nationally-ranked #23 Misericordia University did not go as planned, and Hamilton was eliminated. This season, the Continentals return with a significant amount of talent and a desire for some playoff wins.

Hamilton's first test this fall came right off the bat when they squared up with #1 Williams College, the defending Division III National Champions. Despite the 2-1 loss, the team feels extremely confident looking ahead. Forward Kendall Discenza '21 said, "Even though it was not the result we were hoping for, this game gives us a lot of confidence for future games. If we can compete with the defending national champions, we can compete with anybody." On Sept. 8, the Continentals traveled to Lewiston, M.E. for another conference matchup against the

see *Soccer*, page 14

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Cat Gambino '21 was the NESCAC women's soccer player of the week last week and is tied for third in the NESCAC for most goals scored

First-year student athlete profile: Volleyball

by Kelcie Zarle '22
Contributing Writer

As the volleyball team (2-5) took to the court for the first time this season on Friday, Sept. 7 to play in the Hawks Invitational at SUNY New Paltz, the four first-years, Kendall Boxe '22, Jo Dine '22, Jane Fanning '22 and Maddy LaPoint '22 felt more than prepared to start their careers here at Hamilton. From the instant they set foot on campus, the four have been on the go, adjusting to the dual demands of life as college students and as NCAA Division III athletes. Thanks to the guidance and support from their teammates and coaching staff, the transition to life as a first-year student athlete at Hamilton has been smooth.

The four new arrivals come from all over the East Coast: Boxe is from Leesburg, VA, Dine from New York City, NY, Fanning from Needham, MA, and LaPoint from the nearby Liverpool, NY. Although they all come to campus with different backgrounds, the reason they chose Hamilton is the same: "Hamilton is the perfect combination of the competitive athletics and the rigorous academics," said LaPoint.

The group has become close despite not knowing one another when they arrived on campus in early August. Boxe, who plays at middle blocker, feels that part of the reason the adjustment has been simple is due, in large part, to all of her teammates, both the upperclassmen and the four from the Class of 2022.

"They're a really nice group and fun to be around both on and off the court," Boxe said. "It's definitely been hard to balance the workload and practice because of the time crunch to get work done as well as getting enough sleep to feel refueled, but the team has been a great support group from the start." She thinks practices have been strong and is excited to see how that translates into the games down the road.

For Boxe, the glaring differences between college and high school volleyball is the skill level and competitiveness. Dine, who is a setter on the team, agrees and believes it is in part because of how everyone on the team wants to succeed. "I think the main difference has been the mentality of the team in general since everyone feels much more driven to win and be competitive every day in practice," she said. "It is also more fast-paced than my high school and club teams, which I am still getting used to." In an academic sense, Dine admits that there are more commitments here than in high school so she has been trying to find ways to be as efficient with work as possible. She has enjoyed her time here on the Hill so far and says "it has been fun getting to know so many new people both on and off the team."

Fanning, an outside hitter, has also been making the most of her time in Clinton. "I enjoy being on such a beautiful campus and I think being on a team first semester is great because it's an immediate group of people you know," she said. Like Dine, Fanning thinks the pace of the play is the biggest difference from high school. "To me it seems overall a lot faster. The movement on and off the net is quicker than I am used to," said Fanning. "I also think the volume of work we do in practice is more than I am used to, so I find myself more tired than I used to be after practices for high school or club season, but overall I enjoy them."

Fanning was happy with the start of the season that saw the Continentals go 2-2 over the weekend, including wins against Mount Saint Mary and Alfred. LaPoint, also an outside hitter, was also very excited about the team's first couple of games. "The first game experience as a team was honestly surreal. The energy that everyone brings to the game is so unique and unlike anything I've ever experienced before. Each team member brings something new to the table and watching it all come together was great," she said. Off the court, LaPoint has found that adjusting to the culture at Hamilton has been easier than expected. "I'm enjoying the caring atmosphere here at Hamilton," she said. "Everyone seems to smile at you whether you know them or not, which is comforting."

The four first years seem to be adjusting well to life as first-year student athletes. They "can't wait" to see how the rest of their first season as Continentals plays out. With their home opener fast approaching on Wednesday, Sept. 26, they will continue to work hard and prepare for what lies ahead. "I think we played really well all together in our first couple games so far, and the best part is we still have a lot of potential to get better as the season goes on, so we are all very excited," says Dine.

Volleyball's next home game will be on Wednesday, Sept. 26 at 7:00 p.m. in the Margaret Bundy Scott Field House versus SUNY Geneseo (7-5).

PHOTO COURTESY OF JOSH MCKEE

The 2018 volleyball roster features four first-years: LaPoint (number 3), Boxe (number 4), Dine (number 12), and Fanning (number 15)